

# WAS HORNER MURDERED? WAS EDWARDS MURDERED?

## Two Mysterious Tragedies Which Have Aroused Attention of New York Within the Past Week.

### CHIEF POINTS IN THE HORNER CASE.

- 1.—Dr. Simpson and his father-in-law, Bartley Horner, had quarreled before the latter was shot to death.
- 2.—Horner had talked about changing his will to bar Simpson from any participation in his estate.
- 3.—The prisoner's wife and her mother are both bitter against Simpson and declare their belief in his guilt.
- 4.—The only witness to the killing was a stable boy, who has since become a raving maniac.
- 5.—Dr. Simpson's defense is that he was cleaning the gun and the shooting was accidental.

**Wife Believes Dr. Simpson Guilty, but Neighbors Who Know Him Will Flock to His Support.**

Whether a wife has succeeded in sending her husband on the first stage of the road to the electric chair will not be known until next Friday, when Dr. James Weddell Simpson, the Fifth avenue dentist, on trial for the murder of his wealthy father-in-law, Bartley T. Horner, at Northport, L. I., will come before Justice Partridge for what his counsel promises will be the last day of their presentation of evidence.

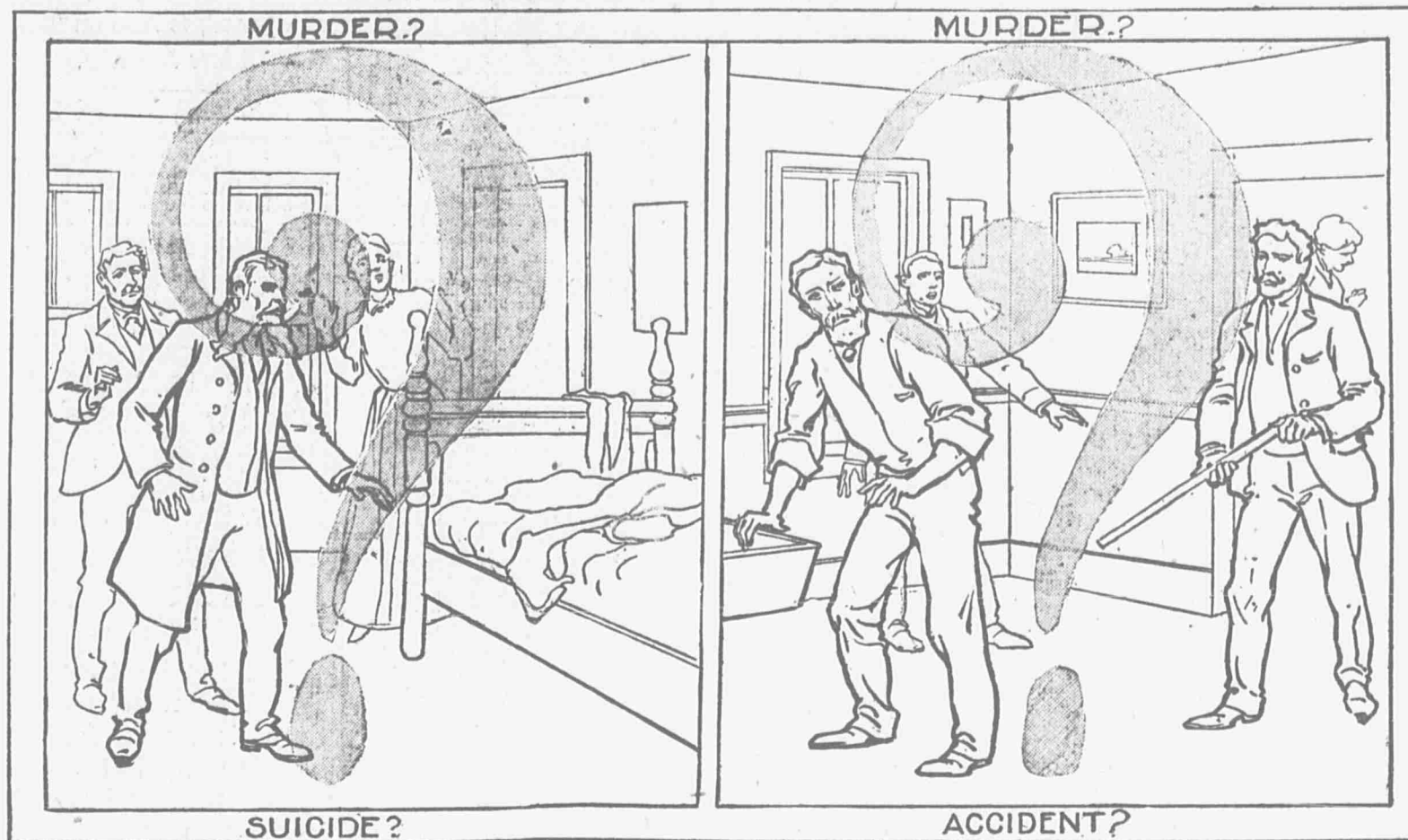
Until that time Dr. Simpson will remain in his cell at the Riverhead Jail, and Mrs. Simpson, with her mother, Mrs. Horner, will in all likelihood remain behind double-barred doors in their home on the snow-bound Vernon Valley road. Meanwhile the women of this village are agitated in behalf of the accused dentist, and the men are a majority for his conviction.

The trial has been conducted in a way to accentuate every theatrical feature. The court was held in the Northport Opera-House, and daily hundreds of men, women and children crowded the little hall to hear the testimony.

To the shabby little opera-house Dr. Simpson was led every morning from his room in the Northport House, where he was guarded constantly by Constable Hauger and three special policemen sworn in from the crew of the oyster boat Lizzie B. that is laid up for the winter.

Effect Was Theatrical. Although the journey was for only a few blocks, the dentist was handcuffed to Constable Hauger. Behind him walked Deputy Sheriff Smith bearing the gun over his shoulder. It was of a piece with the stock and the pillow, this holding up of a man to public derision. The boys ran behind the strange cortege yelling:

"Did you kill him, Doc?" "Ain't yer skeered?" These and dozens of other remarks were hurled at the accused man. After the first snow came boys and loafers about the village accentuated their jests.



counsel for the defense passed witticisms. Such was the scene when Mrs. Horner, heavily veiled and in deep mourning, voiced her belief that Dr. Simpson murdered her husband. It was before the zipping crowd that Mrs. Simpson, the wife, went through the manual of arms with the shotgun that sent its lead-deadly charge into her father. She, too, left no shadow of doubt as to her belief, and even tried to tell masters that could not be accepted as evidence even in the preliminary hearing. But here, as in all else, the finer senses of her husband were shocked, not by what she said, but by what she did. He had wept as she told of her belief. But when she handled the gun he stared at her in horror and, turning away, exclaimed with a sob:

"Great God, that ever I should see my wife make such a spectacle of herself!"

**Sympathy for Him.** It was then that the women of the village were touched with sympathy. The cold, hard voice of the wife and the tears in her eyes were interpreted as much as she could even in the face of the privileged communication with

her husband, shocked some of the women. Others were more touched by the sight of the tall, urbane gentleman sobbing in full view of the audience. At any rate, no sooner had court adjourned after this hearing than the women pressed around the dentist. One woman placed both hands on his shoulders and looked up into his tear-filled eyes. It was a tense moment. The women stood about gazing on the scene. Dr. Simpson never flinched. Tears trickled down his haggard cheeks, but his eyes did not leave those of the woman. Suddenly she exclaimed:

"I know you are innocent." Dr. Simpson threw back his head until his long black curls fell back from his brow.

"As God is my judge, I am innocent," he said, loud enough for the reporters and Justice Partridge to hear. Then the women looked about him.

The coffers among the men were their beards and say as they drink their whiskey. "That Doc Simpson is a slick un. He knows how to fool some folks, but he can't fool us." And so the case stands. Just as the household at the Horner home was divided—the women against the men—so are the sides taken on his case—the women against the men. And, strange of all, while his wife and his mother-in-law believe him guilty, the women who knew him only as a dignified, Southern gentleman are his supporters.

But whatever the outcome may be, the case itself will remain a legend of the North Shore. The facts are there, and already they are known to everybody in Suffolk County. The dentist played with the shotgun and went through the manual of arms, pounding it on the floor. Then he went into the kitchen and, after saying he was about to clean it, started to break the gun. The two heavy charges of birdshot into the abdomen of old Mr. Horner, who was standing at the sink.

**Only One Witness.** If Dr. Simpson's story is true, the gun had been loaded throughout his

exercises with it and the explosion was entirely accidental. Only one person besides the dead man was present in the Horner kitchen. That was Frank Wisniewski, the Polish stable boy, who is now a maniac at Kings Park Asylum. Before he was stricken he testified to the Coroner that Mr. Horner staggered across the floor and groaned:

"You rascal, you're trying to kill me!" The wife and mother-in-law have said that Dr. Simpson was angry because he knew that on the following day the Horner would make a will disinheriting him and trying the money up in trust for the children.

Dr. Simpson's rambling and his sporting life caused many quarrels between him and Mr. Horner. They have said that on the night of the shooting Dr. Simpson had declared he did not care if Mr. Horner were "brought in a corpse."

### TWO THEORIES IN THE EDWARDS CASE.

#### MURDER THEORY.

Opportunity: A thick fog; streets deserted; three keys to Hiller home, one held by Maxey Hiller. Motive: A hatred due to jealousy of years' standing—increased by quarrel over Mrs. Hiller's estate; repeated threats made by Maxey Hiller against Edwards.

#### SUICIDE THEORY.

Maxey Hiller's alibi, supported by wife and children. Alleged financial troubles of Edwards. The finding of laudanum in stomach.

**The Chief Facts in the Edwards Case That Offset the Coroner's Theory That It Was a Suicide.**

Sealed with the lips of a dead man, there seems little hope that the mysterious killing of Charles A. Edwards will ever be explained. It will be buried in the grave, with other crimes that have baffled human effort to solve. Though more than a week has passed since the former officer of the General Chemical Company was found dead in bed in the old Hiller homestead at No. 117 College street, New Haven, the police and authorities of that city are running round in a circle grasping at vague, intangible clues, evolving weird theories of suicide and hoping against hope that some one may come forward and confess to the murder or prove the self-slaying.

The heirs to the estate of Mrs. Hiller, the mother-in-law of Mr. Edwards, have gone to the courts to settle the estate and this may bring out some evidence which will have a bearing on the shooting.

This crime brought the first stain of blood to what is known as the "inner circle" of Yale, that small but exclusive set made up of old graduates, professors and other conservatives who hold their blue stockings aloof from vulgar contact.

All their lives they have been lifting their voices against the demoralizing effort of a progressive press that tells the world the news, holding that only crimes of the most aesthetic sort should be made a public record; that sordid killings and brutal murders should be dealt with by prosecutors and investigators behind barred doors, and no word of what went on within escape to the greedy ears of a proletariat.

**Gave Yale a Shock.** The explosion of tons of dynamite on the Green or the toppling of the tower of the First Congregational Church would not have caused more consternation to this tight little coterie than the death of Charles A. Edwards, Yale '66, brother-in-law of Judge Charles A. Hiller, Yale '64, and of Alan Maxey Hiller, Yale '64, and of John C. Alden, Yale '64, and of Timothy Dwight, Yale, got an honorary degree in 1892.

Here is Mr. Edwards, first cousin of Dr. Dwight, the very doyen of the college circle, found murdered in his bed in the little white house with the green shutters on College street. Seventy years ago, when Benjamin Hiller built the dwelling, trimmed it with green and added a crazy wing to the rear, he unconsciously reared what is now known as a house of mystery.

The two sons and daughter of old Benjamin Hiller were born and lived through their youth in the little white house. The father kept a book store and did a thriving business, and when he died nearly forty years ago he left a comfortable fortune to his widow. He left every cent to Abigail Hiller, for she had a hard time, whereas Charles Alden, Hiller and his brother, Alan Maxey, had never encouraged their father to confidence in their shrewdness.

Charles Alden was a scholar and a good one, but there the range of his ingenuity ended. As for Maxey, his effort to acquire learning at Yale University was hampered by his brain fever, and he suffered from two fits of eccentric rage in which he narrowly escaped slaying his mother, brother and sister, pursuing them through their little white cottage with a carving knife. On another occasion he threatened to put the feeble old family cook in the kitchen and it was then decided to send him to a sanitarium.

**Killed a Soldier.** After leaving the sanitarium Allan Maxey Hiller became infatuated with patriotism (the civil war was then on) and managed to obtain a lieutenant's commission in a Pennsylvania regiment. Before he got to the front, however, he shot and killed a private soldier, was court-martialed, tried and sentenced to serve a year. He was also dismissed from the army, and when he got out of prison returned to New Haven and the little white house with the green shutters. Maxey Hiller, it seems, had a grudge against the private, and killed him in what was alleged to be a moment of homicidal mania.

Before Maxey got back home his brother Charles Alden did not take kindly to the extreme of his mother's efforts to acquire learning at Yale University. He had a brain fever, and he suffered from two fits of eccentric rage in which he narrowly escaped slaying his mother, brother and sister, pursuing them through their little white cottage with a carving knife. On another occasion he threatened to put the feeble old family cook in the kitchen and it was then decided to send him to a sanitarium.

**Believed This Story.** It is believed this story showed many thousands of dollars advanced to the estate.

Before he was murdered on the morning of Jan. 2, Mr. Edwards made frequent visits to the Hiller home, after the death of old Mrs. Hiller. After the passing and no step had been taken in the direction of administering the Hiller estate. The Hiller brothers would give no heed to Mr. Edwards' arguments, and he had reason to believe that they would force the case into the courts.

Mr. Edwards usually stopped at the Garden Hotel or at the home of his cousin, Mrs. Dwight, wife of the former President of Yale University. After the death of his mother-in-law he went into the Hiller house in the night of last week when he was slain.

He was found dead in bed with a bullet hole in his left ear on the following morning. The bullet had not penetrated the skull, but had sufficient force to render him unconscious. At least such is the opinion of the physicians and surgeons who attended the autopsy.

It was only a 2-calibre bullet. There is also a divided opinion as to the quantity of laudanum found in the stomach of the dead man. Dr. Henry S. Cheney, the first physician to be called, declares his examination convinced him that death was caused by the bullet and not by the poison.

Yet the Coroner's theory is that Charles A. Edwards went out into the back yard in his undereclothes on a cold foggy night, drank a quantity of laudanum, lurked the bottle away with his left hand, on which the trigger-finger was missing, and then, in the left ear, and walked upstairs to bed.

Dismissing this astonishingly stupid suicide theory, it seems rather certain that the murderer of Charles A. Edwards shot him in his room while he slept and stole him.

**Some "Sure Things"** are surer than others. A sure and appreciated delicacy for social functions is

**Grape-Nuts** **Wafers.**

## WOMAN'S FIGHT AGAINST BIG ODDS FOR MRS. TOLLA

**Mrs. Mary Grace Quackenbos, Though Comparatively Unknown to the Legal Profession, Shows Remarkable Skill in Her Work.**

The professional woman most in the public eye to-day is Mrs. Mary Grace Quackenbos, the plucky young New York attorney, who took up the fight for Antoinette Tolla's life after the battle had been given up as lost, and who won for her a thirty-day reprieve in the face of what seemed almost certain defeat.

No wonder old graybeards of the New Jersey bar are shaking their heads in amazement over the woman's feat! No wonder New York lawyers are asking each other about this enterprising young person. She is rather worth thinking about.

For she accomplished what her more experienced colleagues feared even to undertake.

When popular opinion gave the woman sentenced to death in the Blackensack jail no hope for quarter this heretofore unknown attorney came into the case at the request of Count Masaglia, the Italian Consul-General. She was retained just nine days before the date fixed for the execution of Mrs. Tolla. She was ignorant of all but the main facts in the case. But in so time she had a mastery of the details and was busy collecting new evidence.

Two days before the time set for the Italian woman's hanging the Board of Pardons was called in special meeting on the petition of Mrs. Quackenbos. She submitted affidavits showing the pathetic character of Tolla, a man Mrs. Tolla shot, and the woman's justification in putting him to death. The woman attorney conducted herself with such dignity, stated her business so clearly and simply, explained the points of law with such understanding and pleaded her case so ably that she got what she asked—a reprieve that the Board of Pardons

might consider and act on her evidence. Whether a clever stroke for a woman, single-handed, and certainly a remarkable victory for an attorney only three years in active practice.

**Newcomer in the Profession.** For Mrs. Quackenbos is a newcomer to the profession. Five years ago she had scarcely a thought of taking up the law. But discussion of medical jurisprudence with her husband, Dr. Henry Quackenbos, awakened in her a desire to know more of the subject, and in September, 1901, she entered the New York University Law School. Her work there was marked from the start with a high degree of brilliancy and intelligence. She was considered her one of his most promising students.

In June, 1903, she graduated from the university and passed successfully her bar examinations, which previous academic honors entitled her to take with only two years of law study.

At the start of her active work Mrs. Quackenbos's plans were wholly philanthropic. At the law school she had been interested in the work of the Legal Aid Society, and upon being admitted to the bar she opened a legal office in the offices of that society. After a few months she opened a charitable law office of her own at No. 15 Leonard street.

It was there that Mrs. Quackenbos developed a tremendous interest in the needs of the ignorant foreign element. The Children's Aid Society conducts on these premises a law office for children with a night school for adults. There the immigrant class of the neighborhood learned the law in a practical way, when in trouble, went to "the lady lawyer" for advice in the American law. And before long John's wife, a woman, wise in Blackstone and, what was more to the point, the penal code, was regarded as both saint and sage. The imprisonment, fines and even electrocutions that she saved these humble clients would fill a volume.

This strange little office where Mrs. Quackenbos got her first actual experience in law is still maintained by her as a branch of her present law firm. But her assistant, H. H. Hermiston, manages it in her stead.

It was last winter that Mrs. Quackenbos planned her People's Law Firm. In May she opened offices at No. 11 Bible

## VICTIM OF "WOMAN IN BLACK" AND HER HOME.



563 A Lafayette Ave

House Square, with the purpose of giving the best and best legal service for a fee proportionate to the client's financial status.

**Now Has 550 Cases.** To-day the firm has 550 cases pending and employs a staff of four attorneys and two stenographers. And in spite of the low fee, the firm's business is growing. It not only supports itself, but makes money.

At the same time, Mrs. Thornley wants it known that she will no longer remain indoors through fear of annoyance. She will go around and meet and shoot all persons who molest her, including a short, stocky young man with a bad eye, who has been bothering her in a basement window for several months, and who was seen peering in a window and looking in a doorway.

The family realized that much of the more recent annoyance probably comes from cranks, but are inclined to blame little Johnnie Weise, office boy at Frank Mills' paint and decorating shop at No. 80 Nassau avenue, for the failure to capture the annoying late Thursday afternoon Mr. Mills. It should be remembered, is the friend of the Thornley family who boards with them. Johnnie Weise is a recent law school graduate in a window.

He did not think much about it, but when, half an hour later, he saw the woman, he started for the door. The woman moved away, but Johnnie, instead of following her, sought a policeman. This wasted several minutes and as Johnnie could not describe the woman she was not caught.

The whole neighborhood is on the watch for clues and everywhere they speak admiringly of Mrs. Thornley as one who "minds her own business." It is a model manner and housekeeper who has never made an enemy among them.

**BRIDGE TRAFFIC DELAYED.** A Smith street car bound toward Brooklyn jumped the track at the switch on the Brooklyn end of the Bridge during the rush hour to-day, delaying traffic for about twenty minutes.

The car was proceeding slowly, and no windows were broken nor was there any scare among the passengers, who filled every seat, many of whom, impatient at the delay, got out and walked, taking the wooden gang plank.

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## SAID "WOMAN IN BLACK" ACCOSTED MRS. THORNEY

**G. L. Farr Sends Word He Witnessed Incident in Mysterious Case.**

Mrs. Amy Thornley, of No. 233 A Lafayette avenue, Brooklyn, who has been suffering for five years from the attempts of a "woman in black" to frighten her with threatening letters, to-day received a note from George L. Farr, a cashier at Pier No. 13, of the Lackawanna Railway. Mr. Farr told Mrs. Thornley that he and his wife were in the cemetery at the time she was approached, some time ago, by a strange woman, who glared into her face and then moved rapidly away. He is willing to appear as a witness for her.

Mrs. Thornley and her son, who was with her at the time, had failed to mention this incident to the police or reporters, largely through a fear of drawing others into publicity.

Mrs. Thornley, although feeling quite well again, is obliged to deny herself to all visitors owing to the number of male and female cranks who come off every form of advice, and very new brands of religion to very old brands of detective work.

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## WOMAN EMPLOYED TO SPRAY TREES SAYS HOSE WAS FAULTY AND CHEMICALS INJURED HIM.

Henry Smith brought an action in the Supreme Court at White Plains to-day against Miss Helen Miller Gould for \$10,000 damages for injuries he received while spraying trees at her country estate, Lyndhurst, near Irvington, on the Hudson.

Smith charges that the hose through which a chemical solution was sprayed on fruit trees was in bad condition and had been negligently allowed to be given to him for use, and that as a result the poison got in his eyes, on his face and arms, and injured him seriously, if not permanently.

Merchant Elmer L. Life to Prevent Giving Consumption to Wife. BERKELEY, Cal., Jan. 12.—Col. W. S. Boyd, a young merchant, suffering from consumption, committed suicide by giving his wife a dose of poison.

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